



wherein the surface light source device and the projection rows of the prismatic element are separated by a distance of 0.5 to 1 mm.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2 and 4-10 have been amended. Claims 1-10 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. The distance range has been corrected to --0.5 to 1 mm--. The undersigned regrets the oversight.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,587,816 to Gunjima et al. Claims 6 and 9 are separately rejected as being anticipated by Gunjima et al. Claims 3, 8 and 10 are rejected as being obvious over Gunjima et al. in view of "Applicant's admitted prior art."

On September 10, 2002, Examiner Nguyen kindly granted the undersigned a personal interview in his office. The Examiner's time in preparing for and conducting the interview is acknowledged and gratefully appreciated.

During the interview, each of the independent claims was discussed, particularly in regard to Gunjima et al. The Examiner tentatively indicated that a polarization film and a prismatic light control element formed directly on the polarization film patentably distinguish over Gunjima et al. Various changes have been made to the claims based on this indication. For example, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to make it clear that the liquid crystal device panel has a liquid crystal layer, a polarization film and a prismatic light control element which is provided with a prismatic light control face, formed directly on the polarization film. Claims 4 and 6 have been amended to clarify that the light control face is a prismatic light control face. Claims 7, 9 and 10 have been amended to convey that the prismatic element having projection rose is a prismatic light control element.

The Examiner has argued that Gunjima et al. contains two elements positioned as required. However, with the claim changes, it should be clear that the elements referred to by the Examiner are not a polarization film and a prismatic light control element.

In view of the claim changes, it is submitted that the prior art rejection should be withdrawn. There no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A liquid crystal display panel disposed apart from a surface light source device provided with a guide plate having an incidence end face, an emission face and a primary light source supplying primary light which enters into the guide plate through the incidence end face and is emitted from the guide plate through the emission face to provide illumination output light for backlighting of the liquid crystal display panel, comprising:

a liquid crystal layer;

a polarization film; and

a prismatic light control element provided with a prismatic light control face for modifying directivity of the illumination output light, wherein said light control face is directed to the surface light source device, the prismatic light control element being formed directly on said polarization film.

2. (ONCE AMENDED) A liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal display panel disposed apart from a surface light source device provided with a guide plate having an incidence end face, an emission face and a primary light source supplying primary light which enters into the guide plate through the incidence end face and is emitted from the guide plate through the emission face to provide illumination output light for backlighting of the liquid crystal display panel,

wherein said liquid crystal display panel is provided with a liquid crystal layer, a polarization film and a prismatic light control element having a prismatic light control face for modifying directivity of the illumination output light,

said light control face being directed to the surface light source device, and

the prismatic light control element being formed directly on the polarization film.

4. (ONCE AMENDED) A unified composite optical element comprising:

a polarization film [one face of which provides]; and

a prismatic light control face for modifying directivity of input light, said prismatic light control face being one surface of said polarization film itself.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A unified composite optical element comprising:

a polarization separating sheet member which transmits input light
[component]components having a first polarization plane and reflects input light
[component]components having [another]a second polarization plane perpendicular to said first
polarization plane,

wherein one face of said polarization separating sheet member [provides]itself is a
prismatic light control face for modifying directivity of input light.

6. (TWICE AMENDED) A unified composite optical element comprising a laminated
structure, comprising:

a polarization separating sheet member which transmits input light components having a
first polarization plane and reflects input light components having a second polarization plane
perpendicular to the first polarization plane; and

a polarization film, wherein one face of the unified composite optical element
[provides]itself is a prismatic light control face for modifying directivity of input light.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a surface light source device;

a unified composite optical element comprising:

a polarization film; and

a prismatic light control element [have]having projection rows facing the surface
light source device, the prismatic light control element being formed directly on one face of the
polarization film such that together, the polarization film and the prismatic light control element
form the unified composite optical element[.]; and

a liquid crystal display panel formed adjacent to the unified composite optical element
with the polarization film facing the liquid crystal display panel.

8. (ONCE AMENDED) A liquid crystal display device according to claim-7,

wherein the surface light source device and the projection rows of the prismatic element
are separated by a distance of 0.5 to [5]1 mm.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a surface light source device;

a composite optical element comprising:

a polarization film;

a polarization separating sheet which transmits light components having a first polarization plane and reflects light components having a second polarization plane perpendicular to the first polarization plane; and

a prismatic light control element [have]~~having~~ projection rows facing the surface light source device, the polarization separating sheet being interposed between the polarization film and the prismatic light control element [such that together],

the polarization film, the polarization separating sheet and the prismatic light control element form the unified composite optical element with the prismatic light control element serving as one face of the composite optical element, and

a liquid crystal display panel formed adjacent to the unified composite optical element with the polarization film of the unified composite optical element facing the liquid crystal display panel.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 9,
wherein the surface light source device and the projection rows of the prismatic element are separated by a distance of 0.5 to [5]1 mm.